

Message Text

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EUR/P - MR. JERABEK (PHONE)

H - (INFO)

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O R 111600Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, CVIS, UR, US (DRINAN, ROBERT F.)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY CONGRESSMAN DRINAN AND GROUP

REF: STATE 18993

1. AT OPEN OF BUSINESS AUGUST 11 SOVEMBASSY CONSOFF INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT DRINAN VISA HAS BEEN ISSUED AND PASSPORT IS READY TO BE PICKED UP BY DRINAN'S STAFF. SOV-EMBASSY CONSOFF SAID REMAINDER OF GROUP'S VISAS HAVE NOT BEEN REISSUED PENDING CLARIFICATION OF WHETHER INTOURIST HAS HOTEL SPACE. HE NOTED THAT INTOURIST IS CANCELLING LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKINGS BECAUSE OF ACUTE HOTEL ROOM SHORTAGE.

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT IN INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED FOR REMAINDER OF GROUP TO RECEIVE VISAS TO TRAVEL WITH DRINAN. PLEASE FOLLOW UP APPROACH TO INTOURIST REQUESTED PARA 5 REFTEL WITH APPROACH TO MFA.

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3. IF VISAS FOR REMAINDER OF GROUP ARE NOT ISSUED AUG 11
WE ANTICIPATE CONGRESSMAN DRINAN MAY RELEASE STATEMENT TO
PRESS CLAIMING THAT CONTINUING SOVIET DELAY IN REISSUING
VISAS TO REMAINDER OF GROUP IS SOVIET EFFORT TO THWART
SUCCESS OF HIS PLANNED TRIP TO USSR. IN ANSWER TO ANY PRESS
QUERIES IT RECEIVES, DEPARTMENT PLANS SAY THAT (A) IT
UNDERSTANDS DRINAN'S VISA WAS ISSUED; (B) SOVIET EMBASSY
TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT VISAS FOR REMAINDER OF GROUP WERE
ISSUED ONCE IN ERROR, RECALLED, AND HAVE NOT BEEN
REISSUED TO DATE BECAUSE OF LACK OF CONFIRMATION OF
INTOURIST HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS; AND (C) DEPARTMENT HAS
INFORMED SOVIET AUTHORITIES THAT IT HOPES ENTIRE GROUP
WILL RECEIVE VISAS. SISCO

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